

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001300010018-3

NSC BRIEFING

12 October 1960

LAOS

- I. The stock of General Phoumi and his Savannakhet Revolutionary Committee has risen this week.
- A. A revolt in the military command in Xieng Khouang Province, in northeastern Laos, has resulted in a defection to the Phoumi camp after a short interval of support for the Souvanna Phouma government.
1. Circumstances behind this latest switch still obscure, but apparently pressure from Meo tribal elements in the province was an important factor.
2. The Meos, an important ethnic group, were reportedly concerned over Pathet Lao inroads into Xieng Khouang.
- B. At Luang Prabang, the First Military Region commander, who had sought to maintain a precarious neutrality between Vientiane and Savannakhet, is reported leaning towards Phoumi and may come out openly for him at the opportune moment.
- C. Even General Ouane, the armed forces commander in Vientiane, has privately indicated qualified willingness to find some way of working with Phoumi against the Pathet Lao.
- II. Phoumi's gains could quickly evaporate, however, if his forces were to suffer another defeat at the hands of Captain Kong Le's paratroopers.
- A. There has been a week-long lull in the fighting, but the opposing forces are close to each other on the road between Paksane and Thakhek.

DOCUMENT NO. 7  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☒ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: HR 70-2

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001300010018-3 REVIEWER: 372044

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001300010018-3

- B. Kong Le may well be itching to take another crack at Phoumi and can resume his attacks any time.
- III. Ouane claims that he is considering mounting a coup against Kong Le if the situation degenerates much further. His plans are in very preliminary stage, however, and it is questionable whether Ouane has the will actually to move against Kong Le.
- IV. In Vientiane, talks between the Souvanna government and the Pathet Lao began on 11 October. Aside from the Pathet Lao taking advantage of the occasion to deliver a blistering attack on the United States, little was accomplished during this first session, but they plan to meet again today (Thursday).
- A. Souvanna had previously told our ambassador that he would insist on a cease-fire throughout the country and restoration of Sam Neua Province to government control as preconditions to substantive talks.
- V. Pathet Lao meanwhile has applied additional guerrilla pressure on government posts in Phong Saly Province in apparent attempt to improve bargaining position.
- VI. The USSR meanwhile is quickly following up the recent establishment of diplomatic relations with Laos.
- A. A delegation of Soviet diplomats--presumably including the Soviet ambassador to Cambodia, who will also be accredited to Laos--is due to arrive in Vientiane today (Thursday).
- B. An official in the Laotian foreign ministry observed that they "will probably not come empty-handed."
- VII. US Ambassador Brown reports Souvanna Phouma says cabinet has agreed to -2- move government to Luang Prabang.

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001300010018-3

~~SECRET~~